



MAR 13 2015

Kenneth H. P'Pool
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0571

Dear Mr. P'Pool:

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of your December 17, 2014, letter to Grace Kilbane regarding the status of the 36 CFR 800.3(c) consultation process for the 33rd Avenue High School, known as the Gulfport Job Corps Center.

Since our last letter dated December 20, 2013, (mentioned in your correspondence) Ms. Kilbane retired. As of November 2014, I am the new National Director of Job Corps.

In your letter you asked for a copy of the building assessment and feasibility study referenced in the Department's letter to you dated December 20, 2013. That letter indicated that this study was performed to determine the extent of the structural and environmental damage to the buildings, the cost and work required to restore the three existing buildings to their original design, full functionality, and to meet current building codes. Our letter also stated that the preliminary assessment of the buildings uncovered additional safety and stability issues that must be addressed before an in-depth assessment of the buildings can be conducted. Enclosed is a copy of the preliminary report dated September 20, 2013, per your request.

In addition, we informed the City of Gulfport that the in-depth assessment is estimated to cost between \$1 and \$1.5 million. Given the City's ownership of the property, we requested that the city contribute to the cost; however, the city declined.

We have procured a third party contract to proceed with an in-depth assessment described above. The purpose of this assessment is to:

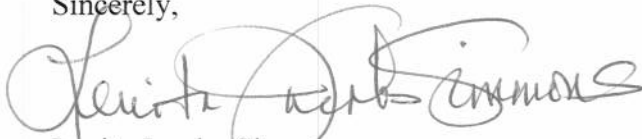
- Investigate and identify the structural deficiencies and temporary repairs required to stabilize the three (3) hurricane-damaged buildings;
- Survey and quantify the extent of environmental contaminants requiring remediation; and
- Determine how to weatherproof the buildings to prevent further deterioration.

The results of the assessment, which we anticipate taking six months to complete, will help determine the steps necessary to secure the buildings until permanent uses can be determined. We will provide you with a copy of this report when it is complete.

Your letter also inquired whether the Department intends to reinstate the Section 106 consultation process, and if so, whether target dates have been established. The Department fully intends to move forward with the consultation process once we receive the results of the assessment.

We are excited to move forward on this project. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (202) 693-3000. A signed copy of this correspondence may be found at <http://jobcorps.gov/home.aspx>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lenita Jacobs-Simmons", written in a cursive style.

Lenita Jacobs-Simmons
National Director
Office of Job Corps

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Charlene Vaughn
Dr. John Kelly
Ms. G. Gayle Tart, Esquire
Mr. Greg Williamson



HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION
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December 17, 2014

Ms. Grace A. Kilbane
National Director
Office of Job Corps
U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, DC 20210

RE: 33rd Avenue School, Gulfport, MS

Dear Ms. Kilbane:

I hope that this letter finds you well and preparing for a wonderful holiday season.

As I prepare to close out office activities for the holidays and plan for my work-during the New Year, I am reviewing 2014 projects that still await action. On December 20, 2013, you informed me that Job Corps had procured a third party contractor to provide a building assessment and feasibility study of the former 33rd Avenue School property. On March 28, 2014, I wrote to you requesting a copy of the assessment, which I understood was nearing completion at that time. As of the writing of this letter, I have not yet received a copy of the building assessment and feasibility study.

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) still fully concurs that that was the proper route for Job Corps to begin evaluating what might be done to stabilize and eventually rehabilitate the historic school buildings. Therefore, I would very much appreciate your providing MDAH with a copy of the study, even if it is still in draft form.

Additionally, on November 2, 2012, Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Ms. Jane Oates, wrote to inform me that the Department of Labor (DOL) was reinitiating the 36 CFR 800.3(c) consultation process for the Gulfport Job Corps Center, as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). However, during the intervening two years, to my knowledge no consultation meetings have been conducted or scheduled. Does DOL still intend to reinitiate the consultation process? If so, have target dates been established?

MDAH appreciates Job Corps' undertaking the assessment of the school buildings, and I look forward to receiving and reviewing the report as soon as possible. If the Department of Labor still plans to resume the Section 106, NHPA, consultation process, please let me know the proposed dates so they can be incorporated into our office calendar for 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ken P'Pool". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ken" and the last name "P'Pool" clearly distinguishable.

Kenneth H. P'Pool
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

C: Ms. Charlene Vaughn
Dr. John Kelly
Ms. G. Gayle Tart, Esquire
Mr. Jim Woodrick
Mr. Greg Williamson